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Secret FBI report says Cuba influenced anti-war activists

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WASHINGTON — As anti-war activity intensified in the late 1960's, President Johnson and later President Nixon asked the CIA to find out the extent of foreign influence on American radicals.

In an investigation code-named Operation CHAOS, the CIA set up a supersecret unit whose computer eventually contained information on about 300,000 American citizens or organizations.

Four times from 1967 to 1970 — each time at the urgent request of the President — the CIA looked into the question, and four times the intelligence agency reached the same conclusion: There was no significant foreign involvement with American anti-war radicals.

TWO YEARS AGO the FBI undertook a similar study and came to a different conclusion. The FBI, in a formerly top-secret report obtained by The Detroit News, found "enormous" foreign influence on American youths belonging to the radical Weathermen Underground organization, known as the Weathermen, and much of that influence was found to come from Cuba.

Though the report stresses that the Cubans — and the Vietnamese too — influenced the Weathermen, it does not document any day-to-day direction or guidance of the American group by foreign Communists. The report also does not state that the foreign Communists provided the Weathermen with money, weapons or other material. And it does not accuse any Weatherman of spying for the Communists.

Cuban intelligence did provide "special training" to a "few" Americans who visited Cuba, according to the report. The report says, however, that even though an American may have been given training in espionage techniques, that "does not necessarily mean that he is a recruited agent."

"The Cubans view training as a service to revolutionaries rather than as part of a formal recruitment

process. A very limited number" of Americans "have been trained in guerrilla-warfare techniques, including use of arms and explosives." The FBI attributes 33 bombings or attempted bombings to the Weather Underground between October, 1969, and September, 1975.

THE 1976 FBI report, made public under the Freedom of Information Act, could become a factor in legal actions facing former and present FBI officials and field agents. Several lawyers for the FBI men say they are considering using the report in defending their clients.

"I expect that the report will be used in court," says Thomas Kennelly of Washington. He is a lawyer for Edward S. Miller, 49, former chief of the FBI's counterintelligence division. Miller is to stand trial Oct. 23 in federal court in Washington with former acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III, 62, and W. Mark Felt, 65, former acting associate director.

The three were indicted last April 10 on federal charges of conspiring to violate the civil rights of friends and relatives of fugitive Weathermen. Maximum punishment is 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The former FBI officials are accused of authorizing illegal break-ins by FBI agents searching for Weathermen in late 1972 and early 1973. The break-ins occurred in the New York City area and were conducted by a unit known as Squad 47, which operated out of the bureau's New York City office.

The break-ins came to light in early 1976. Then-FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley said he first learned of them in March, 1976, after FBI officials from the Washington headquarters had examined files from the New York City office.

In July, 1976, Kelley ordered the report on the Weathermen, which was prepared by the Chicago office. FBI spokesmen declined to say whether the report was ordered for possible use by officials and agents facing court action.

IN ASKING field offices in 18 other cities, including Detroit, for help in compiling the report, the Chicago office said in a teletype message to them: "In view of certain circumstances, which currently exist, it is imperative that such a document be prepared." And a later memo from the Chicago office to several other offices refers to gathering the information into a "disseminable document for use in the present situation and in future problems which may arise."

FBI men face three kinds of legal action — criminal suits, civil suits and internal disciplinary proceedings. Gray, Felt and Miller are the only present or former officials now accused of crimes. Several agents involved in the break-ins have been named in civil suits filed by owners or occupants of the residences broken into.

And last April Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell asked FBI Director William Webster to begin disciplinary proceedings, where appropriate, against

68 FBI agents and two Justice Department officials involved in "the use of probably illegal wiretaps, mail openings, and surreptitious entries."

With one exception, the Justice Department has not disclosed the names of those cited by Bell. Lawyers for some agents involved in the New York-area break-ins say those agents have not been informed whether they will be subject to the disciplinary proceedings.

THE EXCEPTION is J. Wallace LaPrade, a former assistant director who headed the New York office until last April, when he was transferred to headquarters. Bell fired LaPrade last July after he complained publicly about the investigation of Squad 47's activities.

John J. Kearney, former supervisor of the New York office and head of Squad 47 from August, 1970, to June, 1972, was indicted in April, 1977, on federal charges that agents under his command illegally opened